REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 is amended and claims 14 and 15 are added. The title of the specification is also amended. No new matter is added.

I. Specification

It is alleged in the Office Action that the title of the invention is not descriptive. To address this allegation, the title of the invention is amended as suggested in the Office Action.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,313,546 to Nishimura et al. ("Nishimura"). As claim 2 is canceled the rejection of that claim is moot. The rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-11 and 13 is respectfully traversed.

Nishimura fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. For example, Nishimura fails to disclose an onboard power supply system, comprising: a power generator; a first electrical power storage device charged by the power generator; a second electrical power storage device; and a charge and discharge control device for controlling charge and discharge of the second electrical power storage device based on at least one of a first state quantity that indicates a state of charge of the first power storage device and a second state quantity that indicates a state of power generation of the power generator, wherein the charge and discharge control device disables the discharge of the second electrical power storage device when the first state quantity is smaller than a predetermined value, as recited in amended claim 1.

Nishimura relates to a power supply assembly for a vehicle having two power supply systems, namely a high-voltage storage cell and a low-voltage storage cell (col. 1, lines 7-9).

As shown in Fig. 1, the power supply assembly includes a generator 2, a high-voltage storage cell 15 and a low-voltage cell 16. A controller 17 serves as a control means. Terminal voltages of the high-voltage storage cell 15 and the low-voltage storage cell 16 are input to the controller via signal lines 33 and 34 (col. 3, lines 5-8).

It is alleged in the Office Action that the low voltage storage cell 16 corresponds to the first electrical power storage device recited in the rejected claim and the high-voltage storage cell 15 corresponds to the second electrical power storage device recited in the rejected claim. It is disclosed in Nishimura that the controller 17 controls generation of electricity of the generator 2 by outputting an on/off signal for the excitation current via the signal line 31 based on the start and stop signals from the engine 1 and the terminal voltages of the high-voltage storage cell 15 and low-voltage storage cell 16 (col. 3, lines 8-16). As shown in Fig. 2 and described at col. 3, beginning at line 43, when the engine is stopped, the controller detects the stoppage of the engine and outputs an off signal to the signal line 32 to open the switch 14 (step 101) thereby breaking the electrical connection between the high-voltage storage cell 15 and the vehicle to prevent discharge of the high-voltage storage cell while the engine is not running.

However, Nishimura is silent regarding the charge and discharge control device disabling the discharge of the second electrical power storage device when the first state quantity is smaller than a predetermined value, as recited in the amended claims. Rather, Nishimura, when the charge state of the first battery (i.e., the low-voltage cell 16) becomes low, the low-voltage cell 16 is charged by the second battery (i.e., the high-voltage cell 15). Accordingly, the discharge of the high-voltage battery 15 is not disabled. Therefore, Nishimura fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims as amended. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-11 and 13 is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4, 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nishimura. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5 and 12 are allowable for their dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims

Nishimura fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 14 and 15. For example, Nishimura fails to disclose or suggest an electric load that is mounted in a vehicle and connectable to the second electrical power storage device, wherein a connection of the second electrical power storage device and the electric load is disabled when the first state quantity is smaller than the predetermined valve, as recited in claim 14, or an electric load that is mounted in a vehicle and connectable to the second electrical power storage device, wherein a connection of the second electrical power storage device and the electric load is disabled when the first state quantity is smaller than the predetermined valve, as recited in claim 15.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

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